

### *Advertisement.*

**T**He Map of *Waterford* Harbour, and *Tramore*-Bay, (where several Shipwrecks have lately happend) are to be sold by *G. Risk*, *G. Ewing*, and *W. Smith*, Booksellers in *Dames-Street*, *Dublin*; by Ald. *George Bennet*, Bookseller in *Cork*; and by Mr. *Denis Cherry*, Merch. in *Waterford*; at 18 d. per Map. A Specimen of the said Maps may be seen at both Coffee-houses, in the Parliament-house, *Dublin*.

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*James A. B. n. Hall*

# LETTER

TO EVERY

## WELL-WISHER

OF

### Trade *and* Navigation.

CONTAINING

A Relation of the Author's Discoveries on the *Nymph-Fishing-Bank*, near the South Coast of *Ireland*; with a curious Map, including the *Nymph-Bank*, not heretofore extant in our Sea-Charts: Remarks on the *Dutch*, and other Foreign Fisheries: And Means proposed for Rendering our Own successful.

Most humbly Inscrib'd to the

### LEGISLATURE of IRELAND.

By *WILLIAM DOYLE*, Hydrographer.

D U B L I N :

Printed by R. REILLY, on *Cork-Hill*, for the  
AUTHOR, M,DCC,XXXIX.



*A New CHART of the SEA  
COAST of GREAT BRITAIN  
& IRELAND with Part of FRANCE*

of the NETHERLANDS; including  
the NYMPH BANK, not hereby for-  
feited in our Sea Charts, most humbly  
Inscribed to the Right Honourable  
Sir John Barnard, Knt, Lord  
Mayor of LONDON, and to  
the Merchant Adventurers, Infirers  
& Mariners of Both Kingdoms, by  
their most obed<sup>t</sup> servant

W. M. Doyle. Dr.

5	20	25	20	40	80
<hr/>					

English & French Sagues so in adage

*The NEMPH BANK* abounding  
with Cuckoos Quail Hares Long & other Birds  
living both near the Ground and in the  
Stones with Crabs and other shells. The Co-  
ast of it well known but thought to be far West  
of Texas. The location of this singular  
Island in July 1798 was there observed by  
said Mr. Waterbury. He also found from Simon's  
Map of Missouri that four Steamers or rather  
Sloops of Captains of this Bank are to be  
had in service at New Orleans under his Orders.  
at a Royal Exchange of the name of Hudson's  
at New York City. The Bonnet Brookfield  
Capt. Wadsworth, Mr. Sherer, Messrs.









A  
L E T T E R  
T O E V E R Y  
W E L L - W I S H E R  
O F  
Trade *and* Navigation.

S I R,

I F we consider the Natural Site of the *British* and *Irish* Seas, and the Advantage that, by Fishing in the same, is daily made by Strangers, it cannot then be doubted, were our Fisheries duely encouraged, and industriously followed by the Natives of these Kingdoms, the same, without Injustice to any State or People, might be made the most flourishing in the known World. The Premisses considered, it maketh for our Disgrace, that God and Nature offering us so great a Treasure, even at our own Doors, we do notwithstanding neglect the Benefit thereof: Infomuch, for want of Industry and Care in this Particular, a great many Fishing-Towns are reduced to great Poverty; whereas, on the contrary, by a right Use of such a Blessing, we might repair those decayed Towns, and add Strength and Riches to our Country.

I now, Sir, proceed, at the earnest Desire of certain Well-wishers to Trade and Navigation, and to the Fisheries of *Great Britain* and *Ireland*, to add a few Words to the Account already published in my Maps of the dangerous *Bay of Tramore*, and of the *Harbours of Waterford* and *Rinesbark*, and Sea Coast



to them adjacent, of a Fishing-Bank now named the *Nymph Bank*, about eleven Leagues S. S. E. from the High Land of *Dungarvan*. For, Sir, in order to render the said Maps as useful as possible, as well by describing the said Bank, as taking the perspective Views of the Land from it, and other Stations distant from the Shore, withal to set the Tides and Currents, and determine the Variation of the magnetical Needle, and whatever respecting the Fishery on the said Bank, might be useful to the present and future Ages ; I say, Sir, for the desirable End aforesaid, my own Surveying-Boat being too little for a distant Expedition, upon Application to *Henry Mason Esq;* a Gentleman always ready to promote whatever might be useful and beneficial to his Country, who had the Goodness to accomodate me with his Pleasure-boat of about twelve Tunns, very compleat for the Purpose ; her Name the Bank now bears ; and having on Board seven Men, at Midnight, (*July 15th, 1736.*) I arrived on the said Bank ; and then and there anchoring in 39 Fathom Water, the Ground small Pebble Stones, intermixt with Cockle and other Shells ; we instantly applied our selves to Fishing, and found a wonderful Affluence of Fish, such was the Number of excellent large well-fed Cod, Hake and Ling, Reas or Schetes of a monstrous Size, Bream, Whiteing, Red Gurnet, and other Fish, as to me (tho' I have been fishing on the Banks of *New-foundland* and *New-England*) seemed wonderful ; I never saw equal or better Diversion, and I think it very extraordinary, that a Bank so near the Land as eleven Leagues, and its Dimensions unknown, should have been many Ages neglected, having withal so many Ports adjacent to it. Had the industrious *Hollanders* so great a Blessing near them, they would have drawn immense Advantages from it. But I return, Sir, to our Fishery : In six Hours we filled our Fish-room with Cod, Hake and Ling alone, and all Parts of the Boats with other Fish ; as for the monstrous Reas they were thrown over Board, they would in *England*,

land, *France* or *Holland*, have yielded very considerable ; we continued on the Bank twelve Hours, during which time I set the Tides, took the Views of the Land, and in this and the following Voyage, found the Variation of the magnetical Needle, as is fully expressed in the said Maps, to which the Curious referred ; being full freighted with Fish, and as well pleased as tired with fishing, weighed Anchor, and after a Voyage of 36 Hours, arrived at *Passage* with our Fish in very good Order, and to the Surprise of many, as well for the Novelty of the Voyage as the Excellency and Number of our Fish—— Such was the Satisfaction of the first, that I soon determined on a second Voyage, in order in different Places to make Observations, as well Westward as Southward of the first Station ; for this Purpose, Voluntiers readily offered themselves ; the Profits of the first was Encouragement for a second Voyage, in the Execution of which, between the High Land of *Dungarvan* and the said Bank, we frequently sounded, the deepest Water was 43 Fathom sandy Ground, but no Fish ; at length continuing our Course *S. S. W.* arrived on the Bank, found 38 Fathom small Pebble Stones, and Cockle and other Shells ; this was on the Edge of the Bank which I conceive to be ten or eleven Leagues from the Shore—— In various Places I made Experiments, sometimes Westward, again South East of the first Station, till by a good Observation of the Sun, having a clear Horizon, I found myself in the Latitude of *51 d. 20 m.* at least fifteen Leagues from the Land ; in all Places I had the same Ground, and very good Fishing ; and the Sustainence must needs be very good, and in great Plenty, where such prodigious Sholes abound. And from the Premises it may reasonably be inferred, that the Fish continue on this Bank all the Year round.

The Dimensions of it is not yet fully known ; some pretend it extends far Westward of *Ireland*, and 'tis believed by others, that it joins that of *New-*

*foundland* : This is meerly conjectural, and future Experiments may produce Effects conducive to the Public Good. For the Satisfaction of the Curious, I shall add the following Certificates, which are ready to be produced.

*WE, the under-written Persons, having, in the Month of July, 1736. made a Voyage in the Nymph-Pleasure-Boat, with Mr. William Doyle, Hidrographer, to a Fishing-Bank now named the Nymph-Bank, which we conceive to be about 10 or 11 Leagues S. S. E. from the High Land of Dungarvan; on which Bank coming to an Anchor in 38 Fathom Water, the Ground small Pebble Stones intermixt with Cockle and other Shells, about Midnight we applied ourselves to Fishing; when and where we sufficiently experienced, that the said Bank abounds with very large well-fed Cod, Hake and Ling, having in about six Hours Time compleatly filled the Well-Room of the said Boat, with the said mentioned Fish. We likewise caught fine large Red Gurnet, Whiting, Bream, and other Fish, with Reas or Schetes of a monstrous Size, which for want of Room we threw overboard: the rest of the Fish, after a Voyage of about thirty six Hours, we brought to Passage in the River of Waterford, in very good Order; as is sufficiently known to many of the Inhabitants of that Place. And from the Nature of the Ground, and other Circumstances (as to the Extent of the said Bank as yet unknown) we verily believe that the Fish continue on the same all the Year round, there being probably proportional Sustenance for them. And we humbly conceive, were a Fishery established on the said Bank, and the Sea-Coast adjacent, and carried on under a proper Direction, in strong Well-Boats, and other Decked Vessels fit to bear or brook tempestuous Seas, that the same would be very beneficial to the Kingdoms of Great Britain and Ireland. In Testimony of the Truth of what is above-written, we*  
have



have hereunto set our Hands, and are ready to make Oath of the same if required. Dated at Passage, December 2. 1738.

Paul M'carty, Pilot of the Portmahone Man of War. Maurice Lacy, Fisherman.

**W**Hereas Mr. William Doyle has lately taken a Survey of the Coast and Harbour of Waterford, and made a Chart or Map of the same, this is therefore to certify, that upon strict Enquiry from those who are best skilled in these Matters, we find that the said Survey is exactly made, and that the Chart or Map thereof is well and faithfully executed, according to the Rules of Art. And whereas, in Prosecution of this Work, the said Doyle has discovered a Bank at Sea, at no greater Distance than about eleven Leagues from the Coast, whereon great Quantities of Fish, such as Cod, Hake and Ling, have been taken by him and others, we are of Opinion, That if proper Means were made Use of to promote a Fishery on the said Bank, the same might turn much to the Advantage of the Publick, as well as particular Undertakers. Given under our Hands, at Waterford, this 2d of December, 1738.

T. Waterford and Lismore, Lord Bishop. Hugh Bolton, Dean of Waterford. Alexander Alcock, Dean of Lismore. S. Vashon, Mayor. W. Dobbyn and C. Bolton, Sheriffs.

Thomas Christmas Representative in Parliament. William Alcock, Alexander Boyd, Aland Mafon, Christmas Paul, Esqs; Simon Newport and William Morgan, Aldermen. John Barker, Arthur Taylor and Thomas Alcock, Gentlemen of the Common Council. Adam Hordon, late Master of His Majesty's Ship Success, some Years under the Command of Capt. Townsend, stationed on this Coast.

**W**E the under-written Persons, residing at Passage, in the Month of July, 1736. do hereby declare, That Mr. William Doyle, and others with him, did,  
in

*in the Nymph-Pleasure-Boat, import into the said Port of Passage, in the Harbour of Waterford, a Quantity of Cod, Hake, Ling, and other choice Fish, which was partaked of by us and others, as they said, from a Fishing-Bank about eleven Leagues from the Highland of Dungarvan ; and, according to their Report of the said Bank, and our own Experience of the Sea-Coast adjacent, we verily believe, were a Fishery established thereon, with Well-Boats and other proper Vessels, and under proper Directions, that the same might be very Beneficial to Great Britain and Ireland. Witness our Hands, at Portsmouth-Harbour, this 8th Day of December, 1739.*

*William Carey, Lieutenant of His Majesty's Sloop Hound. William Conn, Gunner. William Carey Jun. Pilot. John Carey, Midshipman. William Fowle, Steward. John Mahony, Hugh Burn, Henry Fisher, Jacob Bafway, William Eads, Thomas Seward, John Doyle, John Monday, Hugh Burn, John Power, Richard Denison, Martin Tubrid, John Woodburn, Felix Nayle, John Eads and Peter Sennet, Sailors and Fishermen.*

*The two last affirm, That since the above Date, they had been fishing on the Nymph-Bank, with good Success, as does James Whelane, late of His Majesty's Ship Lively ; and that, in about thirty five Fathom Water, on the Eastern Edge of the Nymph-Bank, which he conceives to be about eleven Leagues due South from the Tower of Waterford, the Ground Ouzie, intermixt with Cockle and other Shells ; and believes, from the Largeness of the Cod, and other Circumstances, that they continue there all the Year round.— Lieutenant John Davies, late of His Majesty's Ship Lively ; Barns Wheelright, Midshipman ; Tobias Lanyon, Clerk ; Richard Loyd, Doctor ; James Bonney, Carpenter, and Edward Montfort, Mate, have certified the Matters contained in the above Certificate, needless to be repeated in this place.*

*I John*

**I** John Cherry, late Mariner on board His Majesty's Ship *Lively*, whereon I was impressed in the Month of April last, out of the Ship *Hibernia*, Thomas Eyles Commander, from New York and Ivica, and bound to the City of Waterford, do declare, That having made Cape Clear in Ireland, we fell in with about fifty Sail of large two Mast French Fishing-Vessels, who were driving with Nets; one of these I went on board, which had her Nets extended near a Mile, and I paid a Shilling for three Mackrel: This Vessel had a Deck, and was about forty Tunns, as generally the rest doubtless were, appearing about the same Burthen, having thirty five Hands, was about three Leagues from the Land; and it is supposed by them, that the Bank extends Westward of the Cape: They also fished with Lines for Cod, Hake and Ling. Witness my Hand, in London, December 30th, 1738.

John Cherry.

Presuming these Certificates sufficient to convince any reasonable Person, of the Verity of my Relation of the *Nymph-Bank*, and the Sea-Coasts adjacent; it therefore remains to shew, how a Fishery on the same may be put in Execution: In order to which, as I resided some Years amongst the *Hollanders*, I shall briefly relate the Observations I made, concerning their Œconomy in respect to their Fisheries; with some Account of their laudable Industry; which may be an Incentive to the *British* and *Irish* Fishermen, in due time to partake of equal Advantages.

The *Hollanders* employ at least 1800 Herring-Busses, having on board them Men, Women and Children; they carry with them Stock of good Sea-Provisions, Plenty of Salt and Barrels; they salt their Fish the Moment it is taken, and in a manner alive; these Busses are large, strong, well-fitted, and capable to bear tempestuous Weather, wherewith even in the Summer-Season they often encounter. Instead of attending the Herrings on the Coast and in the Harbours, they go and meet them at Sea in innumerable



numerable Shoales or Scholes, at which time they are in the greatest Perfection : By Ordinance of the State, the Busses are under the Direction of Commandores who are the expertest Fishermen, nor dare they at an Anchor or Lying too, cast their Nets, till *Midsummer-Day* ; the Fishery then commencing is called the Summer-Fishery, which continues till the latter End of *August* ; they do not commonly come to Harbour, but continue at Sea, and other Vessels are employed in bringing Salt, Barrels, &c. and carrying home the Herrings, which, immediately after landing, is carefully washed and re-pack with choice good Salt, in branded Casks of different Sizes ; the Packers are sworn and paid by the Magistrates ; and the extraordinary Method of Curing, renders the *Dutch* Herrings preferable to all others. The Winter-Season commences at *Michaelmas*, and continues till the Middle of *November* ; during this Season the *Hollanders* pursue the Sholes on the *British* Shore, even from *Shetland* to *North Britain*, and Southward to *Thames Mouth* : Besides 700 Strand-Boats, 800 Evars and Sulletts, they have as least 800 Doyer or Well-Boats, above 100 Tuns each, which fish on the Coasts of *Great Britain* for Cod and Ling only ; they also employ several hundred small Boats on and about the Coasts of *Yarmouth*, and sell their Herring to the *English* for ready Money ; at the *Ferro Islands* and *Iseland* they employ many Doggers on the Cod-Fishery, the like all over the North Seas, and by killing Seals or Sea-Dogs, they make profitable Voyages ; add to these at least 200 Sail of great Ships, annually employed in the Whale-Fisheries at the *Streights of David*, and on the Coasts of *Greenland*.

The Number of Fishing-Ships employ a great many Men, they breed the ablest Sailors, and by these the *Dutch* supply their Voyages to all Parts, so that they are become as it were the Citizens of the World : By the Number of their Ships and Mariners, and their Trade occasioned principally by their Fishing,

Fishing, they have not only fortified themselves at home, but many times have gloriously repelled foreign Invasions : The Beauty and Strength of their Cities is inferior to none, and numberless are their Havens, whereon they have laid out on some 30, 40, and others above 100,000 *l. Sterl.* On their Fortifications also prodigious Sums of Money ; and these may be compared to any whatever ; all which is originally flowing from the Bounty of the Sea, from whence, by their commendable Industry, they derive their Wealth and Safety : Their Greatness in the *East* and *West-Indies* in many Places, whereof they are become Lords of the Sea-Coast, and have likewise fortified on the Main, where the Kings and People (especially in the *East-Indies*) are at their Devotion ; and more than all this, the Neighbouring Princes in their Differences, by Reason of their Power at Sea, are glad to have them of their Party : Moreover, how mightily is the Public Revenue and Customs of *Holland* increased by their Fishing ? As for Licences, Waftage, and Lastage, which is paid to the State for Custom of Herring and other Salt-Fish, we are likewise to know, that great Part of their Fish is sold in other Countries for ready Money, for which they bring home the finest Gold and Silver ; and much of the latter they recoin of a baser Alloy under their own Stamp, which is not a small Means of augmenting their public Treasure. As touching their private Wealth, if we consider the abundant Store of Herring, and other Fish by them taken, we conclude the Gain thereof, made by private Men, must needs be very great ; for this Trade of Fishing, employing so many Men and Ships at Sea, must necessarily maintain as great a Number of Tradesmen and Artizans on Land, as Spinners, and Rope-makers, Twine for Nets and Lines, Weavers to make Sail-cloth, Packers, Tollers, Dressers, and Couchers to make the Herrings lawful Merchandize ; Tanners to tan their Sails and Nets, Coopers, Block-makers, Lightermen, and Labourers for carrying

and removing their Fish, Carpenters, Smiths, Shipwrights, Carmen, Brewers, Bakers, and many others, too long to enumerate in this Place, besides the Maintenance of their Wives, Children and Families: Moreover, any Man or Maid-Servant, or Orphan, having any poor Stock, may venture the same in their Fishing-Voyages, which ordinarily affords them great Increase, and is duly paid according to the Proportion of their Gain.

*Holland* affords little, as its natural Produce, besides Butter and Cheese, yet, by Means of their Fisheries, aboundeth, in a plentiful Manner, with all kind of Provisions, as Corn, Beef, Mutton, and all other Necessaries of Life; and for Luxury, Wines, Silks, Spices, &c. and for Defence, in all manner of Arms and Ammunition, in Pitch, Tar, Timber, and Iron for Shipping; all which they not only have in abundance for their own Use, but, by Means of their Import and Export, may be said to be the Magazine of the whole World.

Amongst the *Holland* Busses, two or more, according to their Situation and Number of the expertest Fishermen, are appointed to guide the rest, who are bound to follow them, and cast their Lines and Nets according to their Direction; whereas every one of us acts as he pleases: The *Hollanders* set out in *June* to find the Schole of Fish, and having found, keep with it till *November*, and many times longer, as it may happen; whereas we stay till the Herrings come to our Roads and Harbours, and sometimes for want of a good look out, miss them: Our Herring-Fishery continues about ten Weeks, and their's six Months. The *Holland*-Busses are large, strong, and well-fitted; and our Boats are small, thin-sided, and open, and consequently unfit for distant Fishing: The *Hollanders* are industrious, and when discharged of their Lading, immediately put forth for more, and seek for Markets abroad as well as at home; whereas our Fishermen, after they have been once at Sea, seldom go again, till the Money for their Fish is spent, and when in  
Debt,



[ 11 ]  
Debt, seek to supply the Markets : The *Hollanders* have certain Merchants, who, during the Herring-Season, come to the Place where the Busses and Vessels by them laden usually arrive ; these joining in Company, presently agree for the Ladings of twenty, thirty, or forty Busses at a time ; so being discharged, immediately set out to their former Stations for Fishing, whilst our Fishermen are uncertain of their Chapmen, and spend much Time in selling their Fish : It were to be wished, that these and many other Effects were taken into Consideration, and Orders made agreeable to the Plan of the *Hollanders*, to make our Fisheries more prosperous and successful. It has been already shewn, that we are possessed of greater Advantages than any People, or particular Companies, or private Persons, for Fishing, and afterwards for exporting our Fish to foreign Markets : We then ought to set our Hearts and Hands effectually to work ; and by a frugal and industrious Management of Affairs, we may, in a few Years, become Masters of the Fishing-Trade, as well in the Northern as Western Seas. Great is the Example which the *Hollanders* hath set us ; and if upon their Plan we could act, with such Improvements and Advantages as our happy Situation inviteth us unto, we might soon atchieve Glory to our King and Government, and, as it is said in the Introduction, become the most flourishing Nation in the whole World.

The learned Sir *John Burroughs*, in his Sovereignty of the *British* Seas, demonstratively affirms, Page 140, that the yearly Value of Fish taken by Strangers in his Time upon our Coasts, amounted to at least 10,000,000 *l. Sterling* : From whose Authority, and what is before said, great is the Advantage of Fishing in the Northern Seas ; the like may be affirmed of the Sea-Coast of *Ireland*, and the *Nymph-Bank* adjacent, because on them, and the other, as is already known, there is an inexhaustible Store of the best sort of Fish ; and were Well-boats employed on these Fisheries, the great and opulent City of *Bristol*, and

those of *Bath, Gloucester, Worcester*, the Towns of *Taunton, Tiverton, Bridgwater, Minehead*, and all the Places situate on the River *Severn* and adjacent to it, might be supplied with Fish cheap and plenty, to the great Benefit of the numerous Manufacturers inhabiting the same ; and the like Advantage would accrue to *Cork, Kinsale, Youghal, Waterford*, the great and populous City of *Dublin*, the Coast of *Wales, Liverpool, Chester*, and many Places in the Inland Parts of both Kingdoms. For in Respect of the Situation of the *Nymph-Bank*, it is evident all the fine Harbours on the South of *Ireland* are contiguous thereto ; the City of *Dublin*, as also *Biddiford, Barnstaple*, and the *Welch* Coast exceed not thirty ; *Bristol* sixty ; *Liverpool* and *Chester* seventy Leagues Distance from it ; So that in case a Fishery were established on that Bank, numerous are the Places as well for Sale of Fish salt or fresh, or drying it in Ports of Safety, as also exporting the same to *Portugal, Spain*, and other Markets, preferably, cheaper, and sooner than can be done from any other Bank or Coast whatever. Notwithstanding the happy Situation of the *Nymph-Bank*, by Reason of the Ignorance and Poverty (not to speak of the Indolence) of the *Irish* Fishermen on the adjacent Coast, very little compared to the Benefit that might, has been drawn from it : For these People are not only generally unskilful in the Art of Navigation, but their Boats are open, thin-sided, and unfit to bear or brook tempestuous Seas : The Terror of which, and driving beyond their Knowledge, hath been an invincible Impediment to the Progress, which might have long since be made. Well-boats stout and strong, such as are employed by the *Hollanders* in the Northern Seas, might be built in *Ireland*, and all the Western Ports of *England* and *Wales*, where Timber and other Materials for Shipping are reasonable : *Ireland* abounds not only with all Fishing-Geer, but expert Mariners, and other hardy and able Men, where also Provisions and Cloathing for them are to be had exceeding cheap. So that were a Fishing-Company

Company erected in these Parts, (under proper Regulations, and enjoying particular Privileges) not excluding private Persons from Fishing, as they see fit, doubtless a Fishery might be carried on at that Bank, and on the Sea-Coast adjacent, preferable (for the many Reasons here alledged, with others in Reserve) to any Company which ever hath, or ever can be established the *Austrian Netherlands*, or elsewhere. The Premises duly considered, great Benefit would by this Means accrue to His Majesty's Revenue in *Great Britain* and *Ireland*; and likewise to no less than the Artizens of 32 different Trades which are employed on Land, in the various Manufactures and Utensils requisite to a Fishery; and be, at the same time, a Nursery of hardy and able Sailors, so much wanted in these Kingdoms, as well for Defence as Support of Navigation.

The great Sir *William Temple*, in his Essay upon the Advancement of Trade in *Ireland*, written at *Dublin*, July 22d, 1673. to the Earl of *Essex*, then Lord Lieutenant of this Kingdom, saith as follows:

‘ The Fishing in *Ireland* might prove a Mine under Water, as rich as any under Ground, if it were improved to the vast Advantages it is capable of, and that we see it raised to in other Countries: But ’tis impossible, under so great a Want of People, and Cheapness of all things necessary to Life, throughout the Country, which are, in all Places, invincible Enemies to Industry and Improvements.

‘ While these continue, I know no way of advancing this Trade to any considerable degree, unless it be by erecting four Companies of Fishery, one in each Province; into which every Man that enters, shall bring a certain Capital, and receive a proportional Share of Gain or Loss, and have a proportional Voice in the Election of a President to Council, by whom the whole Business in each Province shall be managed.

‘ If unto each of these Companies the King, or Lord Lieutenant, would enter into a considerable  
‘ Share



' Share at first, towards building such a Number of  
 ' Boats and Busses, as each Company could easily  
 ' manage, it would be an Encouragement both of  
 ' Honour and Advantage. Certain Privileges like-  
 ' wise, or Immunities, might be granted from Charges  
 ' of Trouble or Expence, nay, from Taxes, and all  
 ' unusual Payments to the Public, in favour of such  
 ' as brought in a Proportion, to a certain heighth,  
 ' into the Stock of the Fishery : Nay, it seems a  
 ' Matter of so great Importance to His Majesty's  
 ' Crown, both as to the improving the Riches of this  
 ' Kingdom, and impairing the mighty Gains of his  
 ' Neighbours, by this Trade, that, perhaps, there  
 ' were no Hurt, if an Act were made, that none  
 ' should be capable of being chosen into a Parliament,  
 ' or Commission of the Peace, who had not mani-  
 ' fested his Desires of Advancing the Public Good,  
 ' by entering in some certain Proportion into the  
 ' Stock, and Companies of the Fishery ; since the  
 ' Greatness of the one, and Application of the other,  
 ' seem the only present Means of improving so rich  
 ' and so important a Trade. It will afterwards be the  
 ' Business of the Companies themselves, or their Di-  
 ' rectors, to fall into the best Methods of Curing  
 ' and Barrelling up all their Fish ; and to see them so  
 ' exactly observed, as may bring all those Quantities  
 ' of them, that shall be sent abroad, or spent at home,  
 ' into the highest and most general Credit ; which,  
 ' with advancing the Seasons all that can be, so as to  
 ' find the first foreign Markets, will be a way to the  
 ' greatest and surest Gains.

' In *Holland* there have been above thirty Placarts,  
 ' or Acts of State, concerning the Curing, Salting  
 ' and Barrelling of Herrings alone, with such Seve-  
 ' rity in the Imposition and Execution of Penalties,  
 ' that the Business is now grown into an habitual Skill,  
 ' Care and Honesty ; so as hardly any Example is  
 ' seen, of failing in that Matter, or thereby impair-  
 ' ing the general Credit of that Commodity among  
 ' them, or in the foreign Market they use."

Had

Had this Great and Good Man lived to this time, he would have seen the good Effects of this Essay, as it relates to the Linen Manufacture, and other National Improvements in the Trade of this Kingdom; and I conceive, the Benefits that might be drawn, had the *Nymph-Fishing-Bank* been known to him, would not have escaped his Judicious Pen.

But I proceed to shew, that it hath been objected, That a Fishery established on the *Nymph-Bank*, and the Coast adjacent, by means of the many Advantages there subsisting, would be detrimental to our *American Fisheries*: To these I wish all imaginable Prosperity; and to render them prosperous, the ready Way would be to prevent the Encroachments of Foreigners on our Coasts and Harbours: But to that Objection I reply, That it is very true the Advantages of Situation, Cheapness of Provisions and Labour, exceed all other Fisheries in the known World; and to decline so great a Blessing (even at our own Doors) would be most injurious to not only the poor Manufacturers, put to the Nobility and Gentry of these Kingdoms, who might be supplied with live Cod and other Fish, not only in the famous Metropolitan City of *London*, but the opulent City of *Bristol*, the West of *England* and *Wales*, as well as *Liverpool*, *Chester*, *Dublin*, and the chief Cities of *Ireland*.

So numerous are the Markets for live Fish, and Fish just salted, that very little or no Cod, especially, could be spared; so that alone being the Sort exported from *America* to *Spain*, *Portugal*, *Italy*, &c. would not be injurious to the *American Trade*, which highly merits Encouragement and Protection. The inglorious Cession of *Cape Britoon*, by the *Utrecht-Treaty*, to *France*, hath enabled these our Rivals to undersel our *American Fishermen* at foreign Markets. Should they be permitted to continue their Fishing as well on the *Nymph-Bank* as the *Irish Coast* and Harbours, which they now enjoy, they might even out-do themselves in the *Cape Britoon Fishery*, especially as they don't permit so much as the Tail of a  
*British-*

*British*-caught Fish to be sold in the Kingdom of *France* ; and it has been known, that whenever our Fishing-Vessels are, by Storms, drove on their Coast and Harbours, their Fish must perish, and the People are scarce treated with common Hospitality. *Cape Britoon* is the Bane of our Fisheries in *America* ; and have we any Security, should *Britains* neglect these Advantages, that the *French* would not soon grasp them, and add 500 Sail to these already occupying our Coasts and Harbours, and at the *Nymph-Bank* catch, and to the utter Ruin of our *American* Fisheries, under-sell them at the after-said Markets ?

I shall add, that the *Nymph-Bank* is so happily situated, as may fully appear by the Map, that the Wind cannot blow from any Point of the Compass, but there may be had either a safe Harbour, or a good Market for Fish, particularly at the Places afore-mentioned : To which referring, I shall proceed to shew, that the City of *London* may be far better supplied from the said Bank, and Coast, with live Cod, and other excellent Fish, than from the *Doggar*, or any other in the Northern Seas. Every Person that has the least Experience, will allow that generally, in these our Seas, the Wind blows from the Western Board, at least two thirds, if not three Quarters of the Year ; which considered, and that the Well-boats would be all prime Sailors, which are designed to run with live Fish to the *London*, *Bristol*, or other Markets, these would be generally laden from other Well-boats, which should be almost constantly fishing on the Bank, to supply and dispatch the Market-boats with all picked, choice, and the largest Fish ; and as the Distance from that Bank to *Gravesend* is scarce 150 Leagues, having generally withall favourable and smart Gales, and consequently, along the *British* Shore, smooth Water, without bruizing or wasting the Fish, the Voyage may be very easily performed in three or four Days ; whereas the Well-boats coming from the North Eastern Banks, are generally as many Weeks on their Passage, and, by Means of the great and  
constant



of Agitation of the Sea, (the Fish much bruised and wasted :  
our Its therefore referred to the Judicious, which Means of  
raft the two is most eligible, and meriting Encouragment  
ple from the Public. Whenever a Well-boat may be nipt by  
ape contrary Winds, and cannot get about Land, the same  
nd may obtain the *Bristol* Market ; and if not that, *Dublin*,  
ese *Liverpool*, *Chester*, or other places. If in the *Channel* there  
usp are some good Markets, more particularly *Portsmouth*,  
nk where good Cod is a valuable Commodity, as it also is in  
e- other Ports of Safety ; which, compared to the Difficulties  
attending the Fisheries in the North Seas, might be very  
beneficial to the Undertakers.

The *French* who now occupy the *Irish* Coast have two-  
maasted Vessels, which they strike, which makes them lye  
snug on the Water ; and the Well-boats, when at an An-  
chor, or driving with a Drug-sail, on the Bank ought to  
be Schooners or Sloops, so contrived, at least to have as  
little Wind-draft as possible. The *Hollanders* larger Well-  
boats, who fish in 50 or 60 Fathom Water, ride several  
Weeks at a time, having 3 Cables an end in great Seas  
and stormy Weather : the Bait they use is our *Lamper Eel*,  
for which several large Well-boats every Fall of the Year  
arrive at *Greenwich*, in order to receive them from their  
Correspoudents, who bring them from the Head of the  
River *Severn*, and down the *Thames*, as I am told, at so  
great an Expende, that the *Dutch* pay 6 and 7 s. a Hundred  
for them. Our *English* Fishers seldom use these, but ra-  
ther the Silver Bait, to purchase the live Cod from the  
*Hollanders*. Doubtless they find their Account in these  
Eels ; they may be had for a Trifle delivered at *Kingroad*,  
and may be of great Use on the *Nymph-Bank*, and the  
Salt-works on the same River may be, at the same time,  
of great Advantage to the Fishery, and the Fishery recipro-  
cally to them ; as also to those near *Liverpool*, which are  
esteemed of an excellent Quality ; the Fish salted there-  
with, in a manner alive, would prove white and delicate.

We have already many excellent Laws in being, rela-  
ting to the Fisheries in both Kingdoms ; and, upon Ap-  
plication to the Legislature, as the proposed Fishery would  
be of extensive Service to the Public, as well as particu-

lar Adventurers, 'tis hoped, farther needful Encouragement, and Protection, would be readily granted to such a Company or Companies of Men, or Copartners, as might think fit to carry on that Fishery, to their own, and the Benefit of many thousands of his Majesty's Subjects; it being a well-received Maxim, That the Honour, Wealth and Safety of these Kingdoms, doth in a high degree depend on the Improvement and Encouragement of the Fishery.

Such is the inexhaustible Store of Fish, that a great many Vessels might be employed on the Bank, Coasts or Harbours aforesaid: A competent Number of these, and the best Sailors, should continually ply the Markets, the largest *London, Bristol* and *Dublin*, the lesser, the Markets proportional; the others, or a competent number, should be continually fishing with the best, expertest and experienced Men: From these the Market-boats should be supplied with the choice, best-fed, and largest live Fish, wherewith to proceed with utmost Diligence; the lesser Sort should be not only employed in fishing on the Coast and Harbours, but bringing all Necessaries to the Fishing-vessels on the Bank, and carrying the salted Fish to the nearest Land, in order to have the same dried, or for Home or Foreign Consumption. This, with respect to the Herring and Cod-Fishery, is the very Plan whereon the *Hollanders* have acted, with such wonderful Success. As the Men should be on the Terms *No Purchase no Pay*, their Diligence would be double, as would be that of the Plyers to Market, who should be paid by the Voyage; and as Agreement should be made for the Men's Shares, for the Size and Quality of the Fish, upon a standing Contract during the Season, taking and curing it on a Company's Account, would be a great Encouragement to them, and Benefit of the Copartnership, who would not be under the usual unhappy Circumstance of other Fishermen, who often have had their Fish perished before they could obtain a Market.

Numberless are the fine Harbours, from *Cape Clear* to the Eastwardmost Part of the Bank, for curing and drying the Fish, the principal *Waterford, Dungarvan, Youghal, Cork, Kinsale, Baltimore*, and many others, where

where faithful Agents or Factors may be employed in preserving, selling, or exporting the same to Foreign Markets, according to the Direction of all concerned; and the like Agents or Factors at *Bristol, Liverpool*, and all other places convenient, would be equally necessary.

Moreover such Papist Boys as are Educated in the Protestant charity Schools of Ireland, who having a Propensity to the Sea, might during the Fishing Season be Employ'd in it; and as every one should be bound to some Trade relating to the Fishery, for a term of Years, they might at Leisure time be employ'd on Land in making Nets, Lines and all Sorts of Utensils required, so as when their times were out they might be able to get their Bread, either on Land or Water; and it is easie to conceive that such Marines would be a great Treasure and Strength to these Kingdoms: as an Encouragement to such Boys as behav'd well dureing their Apprenticeship, being and continuing Protestants, ought preferable to all to be made Masters and Officers of Well-Boats, and Benefit of such Places of Trust on Land as might be merited by them, and that without favour or affection in this Case ( however small the Wages might be allowed ) the Company or Company's would never want Servants that Voluntier-like would vie with each other in the Service of their Country, by Industiously promoting the Fishery.

I shall, Sir, conclude this Letter with the following Relation, That about the Beginning of *May* last, conceiving how much it might be for the Interest of these Kingdoms, that the full Extent of the *Nymph-Bank* should be known, as also with Intent to improve the Fishery there, several Public-spirited and worthy Gentlemen subscribed towards the Hire of a Well-boat or two, intended for the aforesaid End; and, upon my Application to the Right Hon. the Lords of the Admiralty, who, approving such a laudable Design, were graciously pleased to recommend me to the Assistance and Civilities of the Commanders of His Majesty's Ships, stationed on the South Coast of *Ireland*; the middle of *June* last was the time proposed for sailing; and



and having a large Well-boat, Men, Provisions, and all Necessaries on board, in order to proceed, the general Embargo commenced, and to our Loss and Disappointment obstructed the Voyage: It is to be observ'd, that in the Map annexed, the *Nymph-Bank* is extended as far as *Cape Clear*; and parallel to the Coast, according to several Accounts I have had from the *French* Fishermen, and others, the Eastern Part is the shoalest Water. And so much of it is already known, that, I am very well assured, is sufficient to employ many hundred Vessels: How far then the Encouragement of the Fishery on the *Nymph-Bank*, and the Sea-Coast adjacent, merits Attention, is most humbly Submitted to the Public, by,

S I R,

*Your most humble Servant,*

*Dublin, Nov.*

*15th, 1739.*

WILLIAM DOYLE.

